## Case 3:06-cv-00545-LRH-RAM Document 335 Filed 04/15/13 Page 1 of 5 G. David Robertson, Esq. (SBN 1001) 1 Richard D. Williamson, Esq. (SBN 9932) ROBERTSON, JOHNSON, MILLER & WILLIAMSON 2 50 West Liberty Street, Suite 600 3 Reno, Nevada 89501 Telephone: (775) 329-5600 Facsimile: (775) 348-8300 4 gdavid@nvlawyers.com 5 rich@nvlawyers.com Attorneys for Plaintiffs 6 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 8 9 IN AND FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA 10 Case No.: 3:06-cy-00545 LRH-RAM JANET SOBEL, DANIEL DUGAN, PhD., 11 and LYDIA LEE, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, 12 Plaintiffs, MOTION AND MEMORANDUM IN 13 SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF PROPOSED 14 VS. NOTICE, PLAN FOR DISTRIBUTION OF NOTICE, AND SETTING OF THE HERTZ CORPORATION, et al., 15 **HEARING DATE FOR APPLICATION** Defendants. FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS 16 17 18 Plaintiffs seek entry of the attached Proposed Order (Exhibit "A") to implement the Court's ruling that all Class Members in this Action are entitled to receive the full amount of 19 Concession Recovery Fees that they paid, plus interest. The first step in this process is providing 20 notice, and an opportunity to opt out, to all Class Members ("Notice"). Fed. R. Civ. P. 21 22 23(c)(2)(b). Plaintiffs contemplate that after completion of Notice, the Court will be able to 23 enter judgment on its Order granting summary judgment in favor of all Class Members who do 24 not opt out, consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 58(a), 58(b)(2), and 23(c)(3)(B). Rule 23(c)(3)(B) mandates that any judgment in a Class Action must "include and specify or describe those to 25 26 whom the Rule 23(c)(2) notice was directed, who have not requested exclusion, and whom the court finds to be class members." Because no Notice has yet been sent to the Class, such a 27 28 judgment cannot be entered at this time.

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MOTION AND MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF PROPOSED NOTICE, PLAN FOR DISTRIBUTION OF NOTICE, AND SETTING OF HEARING DATE FOR APPLICATION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS

The Proposed Notice is attached to the Proposed Order as Exhibit A. It provides in "plain, easily understood language," all of the information required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(2)(b):

- (i) the nature of the action;
- (ii) the definition of the class certified;
- (iii) the class claims, issues, or defenses;
- (iv) that a class member may enter an appearance through an attorney if the member so desires:
- (v) that the court will exclude from the class any member who requests exclusion;
  - (vi) the time and manner for requesting exclusion; and
  - (vii) the binding effect of a class judgment on members under Rule 23(c)(3).

The Proposed Notice also provides the information concerning a hearing on attorneys' fees and costs required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(h)(1).

Plaintiffs seek to provide Notice by two means: First, Notice shall be provided by e-mail where possible, and by surface mail where it is not, to all putative Class Members whose names and addresses appear in Hertz's records. This procedure will use the database that was used for the Notice to the Class of the 2011 Proposed Settlement. Secondly, Hertz will be required to post a Summary Notice at its United States airport locations, to attempt to reach individuals who no longer can be reached at their last-known addresses. In addition, the Notice and Summary Notice will direct Class Members to a website that provides additional information about the case, including counsel's fee and cost application and a form for updating mailing addresses. Plaintiffs believe that this process represents the "best notice that is practicable under the circumstances." Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(2)(B). The Court accepted a similar Notice Procedure in its previous Order preliminarily approving the proposed settlement. The proposed contents of the two forms of Notice are attached to the Proposed Order as Exhibits "A" and "B".

Plaintiffs request that the Court require Hertz to pay the cost of Notice. The Ninth Circuit has held that a district court may order that a defendant pay the costs of notice to a class

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in situations where the court has found defendants to be liable. *Hunt v. Imperial Merchant Svcs.*, *Inc.*, 560 F.3d 1137, 1143-44 (9th Cir. 2009), *citing Macarz v. Transworld Sys.*, *Inc.*, 201 F.R.D. 54, 58 (D. Conn. 2001); *Six Mexican Workers v. Ariz. Citrus Growers*, 641 F. Supp. 249, 264 (D. Ariz. 1986); *Catlete v. Missouri Highway and Transportation Comm.*, 589 F. Supp. 949 (W.D. Mo. 1984). *See also Bickel v. Whitley County Sheriff*, 2010 WL 5564634 (N.D. Ind. 2010); *Hook v. Baker*, 2004 WL 3113717 (S.D. Ohio 2004). The case for requiring defendants to pay these costs is especially strong here for two reasons: First, this Court has already ruled against Defendants on damages as well as liability; and second, Nevada law mandates that costs in this case be awarded to the prevailing party. *See* N.R.S. § 482.31585.

Because of the high expense of Notice to approximately 1.2 million Class Members, Plaintiffs would like to send out Notice only once, and, accordingly, request that this Notice also provide the notification to the Class that Plaintiffs' Counsel intend to apply for a fee award in this case, as well as reimbursement of costs to attorneys and incentive awards to Lead Plaintiffs. The proposed schedule contemplates that the briefs on attorneys' fees will be filed by the time of distribution of Notice, and can be available to all Class Members by website. *In re Mercury Interactive Corp. Securities Litig.*, 618 F.3d 988, 993-94 (2010) (schedule must allow time for Class Members to review fee application before objection deadline).

The proposed schedule allows sufficient time to permit both defendant Hertz and any interested Class Members to comment on the award prior to a hearing, as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(h):

Publication of Notice to the Class	90 days from entry of Order
Fee Application Deadline	90 days from entry of Order
Deadline for Opting Out of Class and Objecting to Fee Application	45 days from Notice Date
Submission of List of Opt-outs and Proposed Form of Rule 58(d) Order Entering Summary Judgment Ruling	15 days from Opt-out Deadline
Plaintiffs' Reply to any Objections to Fee Application	15 days from Objection Deadline
Attorney Fee Hearing	7 or more days following date o

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reply brief

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1 Plaintiffs respectfully suggest that the Court adopt a schedule similar to this to allow 2 adequate time for counsel to prepare and publish Notice, and to allow Class Members to opt out, 3 consistent with the requirements of due process. Torrisi v. Tucson Electric Power, 8 F.3d 1370, 4 1374-074 (9th Cir. 1993) (notice mailed 31 days before objection deadline, and 45 days before 5 hearing provided adequate time for Class Members to evaluate). 6 Dated: April 15, 2013 Respectfully submitted, ROBERTSON, JOHNSON, 7 MILLER & WILLIAMSON 8 50 W. Liberty Street, Suite 600 Reno, NV 89501 9 By: /s/ G. David Robertson 10 G. David Robertson, Esq. NV SBN 1001 Richard D. Williamson, Esq. NV SBN 9932 11 BERGER & MONTAGUE, P.C. 12 Susan Schneider Thomas, Esq. Arthur Stock, Esq. 13 Shoshana Savett, Esq. 1622 Locust Street 14 Philadelphia, PA 19103 15 Attorneys for Plaintiffs 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

2 Pursuant to FRCP 5(b) and Local Rule 5-4, I hereby certify that I am an employee of Robertson, Johnson, Miller & Williamson, over the age of eighteen, and not a party to the within 3 action. I further certify that on April 15, 2013, I electronically filed this MOTION AND 4 MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF 5 PROPOSED NOTICE, PLAN FOR DISTRIBUTION OF NOTICE, AND SETTING OF 6 7 HEARING DATE FOR APPLICATION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS and thus, 8 pursuant to LR 5-4, caused same to be served by electronic mail on the following Filing Users: 9 Peter S. Hecker, Esq. (phecker@sheppardmullin.com) Anna S. McLean, Esq. (amclean@sheppardmullin.com) 10 William E. Peterson, Esq. (wep@morrislawgroup.com) 11 12 Arthur Stock, Esq. (astock@bm.net) Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2013. 13 14 Teresa W. Stovak An Employee of Robertson, Johnson, 15 Miller & Williamson 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

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